

Native Forb and Non-native Legume Interseeding Job Sheet

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
University of Missouri Extension – The School of Natural Resources**

For:	County:
Field(s):	Farm #:
Date:	Tract #:
Designed By:	Contact Information:

INTERSEEDING NATIVE FORBS AND/OR NON-NATIVE LEGUMES INTO EXISTING GRASSLANDS IMPROVES HABITAT FOR QUAIL

PURPOSE:

Native forb and non-native legume interseeding is used to increase plant diversity in wildlife friendly warm- and cool-season grass plantings or in old field habitats. Interseeding not only provides wildlife with a food source, but can also create excellent brood habitat for upland wildlife during the summer. Interseeding is best accomplished after a management practice such as prescribed burning, strip disking or herbicide strip spraying has been completed.



SPECIFICATIONS:

- Interseeding can be completed any time from December through April. Native forbs should be interseeded in December or January.
- Interseeding should be used in conjunction with a management practice. Prescribed burning, strip disking or herbicide strip spraying are excellent choices. Prescribed grazing may also be used to prepare fields for overseeding. Be aware that program policies may completely restrict or limit grazing activities.
- Conduct a management practice at a time of the year that setbacks the dominant grasses and vegetation (ex. summer burn or fall strip disk a warm-season grass dominated field). Generally, management practices should be completed in the summer or fall/winter period to prepare the site for interseeding during the dormant or spring season.
- Seed may be broadcasted or no-till drilled. Native forb seed may need to be mixed with an inert carrier such as cat litter, pelletized lime, and sawdust or rice hulls to evenly distribute the seed across the entire field. Use a 50:50 ratio of seed to carrier.
- Do not interseed with sericea lespedeza, birds foot trefoil, crown vetch or sweet clover.
- Interseed native forbs at the rate of 2#PLS lbs/acre with a minimum of 10 species. Native perennial forbs are preferred over annual or biennial species. Annuals and biennials combined equal no more than 15% of the total amount of forbs planted. No single species should be more than 15% of the mix.
- Good non-native legumes to interseed include red clover, ladino clover, and alfalfa and annual/common lespedeza. Generally, non-native legumes are the best choice for cool-season grass fields. Legume inoculants should be used to ensure good germination and plant vigor.

- Recommended non-native legumes and rates are as follows Pure Live Seed/Acre (PLS/ac):

<u>Grass Type/Planned Use</u>	<u>Legume</u>	<u>50% Rate</u>
Warm-season Grass (WSG)	Alfalfa, or	3.8#
	Lespedeza, or	3.8#
	Alfalfa and	2.3#
	Lespedeza	1.5#
Cool-season Grass (CSG)		
for Quail	Same as WSG	
Green Browse for deer/turkey/rabbit	Ladino clover	1.5#
General Wildlife	Alsike clover, or	1.6#
	Red clover, or	3.0#
	Ladino clover, and	0.5#
	Alsike clover, and	0.5#
	Red Clover	1.0#

MAINTENANCE:

- Use herbicides to suppress invasive vegetation and to control noxious weeds.
- Continue to disturbed fields on a two or three year rotation by burning, disking or spraying herbicides. Prescribed grazing may also be used on a 2 or 3-year rotation to create a periodic disturbance. These practices will setback grasses and create bareground habitat. If possible, disturb no more than one-third of the field in a year.

PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Provide a natural cover and food source for quail and other wildlife.

Consult with NRCS, MDC, or University Extension for additional recommendations.

Comment:



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